

SECRET

8 March 1948

NSC & STATE Reviews Completed

SCIENTIFIC ATTACHES

1. This subject is discussed in IAB 5 of 16 September 1947. The type (and extensive details, in many instances) of scientific information which is needed by the intelligence agencies is generally well known as well as the inadequacy of present coverage. The necessity and urgency for collecting these data directly from abroad are recognized.

2. Problems to be considered include:

- a. the type of person needed to collect this information, availability of such personnel, training before departure from the U. S.;
- b. how and by whom recruited and paid;
- c. the manner in which he would work;
- d. most important countries where such attaches should be assigned;
- e. the most practical way in which this matter could be handled considering the "Iron Curtain" regulations and psychology obtaining in many countries; and
- f. whether an overt and/or covert method of collection is the most desirable or necessary. This might vary according to countries.

3. Excerpts from a State Department communication on the inter-departmental production program entitled "Production of Scientific and Technological Intelligence" is enclosed as of related interest.

4. A first proposal of an NSCID on Scientific Attaches is also transmitted herewith for consideration at the meeting of the Standing Committee.

Attachments

- (A) Excerpts from State Department communication
- (B) First proposal of an NSCID on Scientific Attaches

ENCLOSURE (1)

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February 10, 1948

STATE DEPARTMENT MEMO

Allocation of Responsibility for the Production
of Scientific and Technological Intelligence

For some time there has been felt a need for clarification of responsibilities in the fields of scientific and technological intelligence. The problem was under discussion during the preparation of the NIA and NSC directives, but was treated in general fashion rather than in an attempt to detail responsibilities.

The problem involves both the collection of scientific and technological information in the field and the production, in Washington, of scientific intelligence required by the various departments and agencies. The NSC collection directive which establishes the principles for field coordination of all types of information provides no basic means for tackling the overseas part of the problem. On the other hand, it seems that existing arrangements in Washington do little to give a clear picture of the scientific information available to the government, or of the intelligence research being conducted in scientific and related fields. It appears, therefore, that the next and most urgent task is establishing some machinery for actually collecting information, which must be of a selective and economical character, while simultaneously coordinating the production of scientific intelligence.

The subject is broad and complex and the requirements of the interested departments and agencies differ markedly. The direct interest of the Department of State is perhaps slight, but its intelligence organization has responsibility for certain economic intelligence which derives from scientific and technological matters and is an important, if peripheral, element in scientific intelligence. I refer, for example, to intelligence research in electric power, chemical industries, etc.

The problem might be attacked from three standpoints: (a) to ascertain the work in this field now under way in the various departments and agencies; (b) to seek to categorize scientific and technological intelligence by definition into integral parts; and (c) to assign, by agreement, responsibility for the several segments involved. It is believed that agreement must first be reached on those basic elements of the problem before progress can be made toward ascertaining and meeting the specific requirements of policy makers for finished intelligence in the scientific field. Assignment of direct responsibility will go far towards establishing the means for minimizing duplication and for concerting in the preparation of the scientific intelligence so urgently needed by certain parts of the Federal structure.

(Attachment A)

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